

OF THE

FOR THE YEAR

G. NISBET, M.B., Ch.B.(ED.), D.P.H., R.C.S.(ED.)

County of the Soke of Peterborough

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR

1954

G. NISBET, M.B., Ch.B.(ED.), D.P.H., R.C.S.(ED.)

COUNTY OF THE SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH

MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY HEALTH COMMITTEE

(As constituted at 31st March, 1954)

SIR ARTHUR CRAIG

(Chairman of the County Council)

(*ex-officio*)

COUNTY ALDERMAN DR. J. HUNT

(Vice-Chairman of the County Council)

(*ex-officio*)

Chairman :—

COUNTY ALDERMAN G. T. VAWSER

Vice-Chairman :—

COUNTY COUNCILLOR P. ADAMS

COUNTY ALDERMAN MRS. M. C. COOK

COUNTY COUNCILLORS

G. W. S. BURDETT

MRS. E. H. FEAR

S. G. GASCOINE

C. GREENWOOD

G. MATTHEWS

R. PERRIN

MRS. A. PHILPOT

MRS. E. E. L. SAVAGE

MRS. B. M. WILKINSON

Co-Opted Members :—

DR. J. N. COLLINS

DR. R. M. E. SMITH

MISS M. E. PERCIVAL

J. N. STATON, L.D.S., R.C.S. (ENG.)

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF — 1953

County Medical Officer of Health

GEORGE NISBET, M.B., Ch.B.(ED.), D.P.H., R.C.S.(ED.)

Deputy County Medical Officer of Health

WILLIAM D. SWINNEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

<i>Superintendent Nursing Officer</i>	MISS I. SYLVESTER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. CERT.
<i>Health Visitors</i>	MISS M. MCPHILLIPS, S.R.N., S.C.M. MISS M. JULYAN, S.R.N., S.R.C.N., H.V. CERT.
	MRS. M. PARSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert.
	MISS J. SHARPE, S.R.N., B.T.A., H.V. Cert.
<i>Student Health Visitor</i>	MISS P. GOODMAN, S.R.N., S.C.M., (appointed 18/10/1954).
<i>Tuberculosis Health Visitor</i>	MISS E. E. WAGSTAFF, S.R.N.
<i>Clinic Nurse</i>	MISS J. M. MACPHAIL, S.R.N., S.R.F.N., (resigned 14/8/1954). S.C.M.
<i>Home Help Organiser</i>	MISS JOAN WARWICK, T.D.
<i>Assistant Home Help Organiser</i>	MRS. I. WINHAM (commenced May, 1954).
<i>Clerk—Welfare Foods</i>	MISS TEBBS (commenced 24/6/54).
<i>Blind Welfare Visitor and Home Teacher (Peterborough Blind Association)</i>	MISS M. H. P. WHITE, S.R.N.
<i>Lay Administrative Officer and Chief Clerk</i>	JOHN J. DUNFORD.
<i>Duly Authorised Officer</i>	JAMES A. WARREN.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH AND SANITARY INSPECTORS

District	Medical Officer of Health	Sanitary Inspector
City of Peterborough	WILLIAM D. SWINNEY, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.	J. HALL, M.S.I.A., CERT. R. SAN. I., A.M.I.SAN.E.
Peterborough Rural District	W. ANLEY HAWES, M.B., D.P.H. (<i>part-time appointment</i>)	C. GREEN, M.S.I.A., A.R SAN.I.
Barnack Rural District	W. ANLEY HAWES, M.B., D.P.H. (<i>part-time appointment</i>)	D. W. GRIFFITHS, M.S.I.A., A.R SAN.I.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE SOKE OF PETERBOROUGH

To : The Chairman and Members of the County Council
of the Soke of Peterborough.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health Services for the year 1954.

The following statistics show at a glance how the Birth Rate, Death Rate, Infantile Mortality Rate etc., for 1954 compares with recent years :—

	1954	1953	1952	1951
Birth Rate	15.8	16.4	15.3	15.5
Death Rate	10.6	11.1	11.3	11.6
Infantile Mortality Rate	22.1	26.5	20.4	24.1
Maternal Death Rate	0.0	0.09	0.0	0.09
Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.07	0.06	0.13	0.21
Cancer Death Rate	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.4

It will be observed that there has been a reduction in the birth rate, death rate, and infantile mortality rate compared with 1953. The death rate from tuberculosis is again very low. Twenty years ago it was 0.45. In 1914 it was 0.87.

It is interesting to record that in 1914 the estimated population of the Soke of Peterborough was 45,847 (now 65,600), the birth rate 19.5; death rate 12.3, and infantile mortality rate 75.7. On the other hand the cancer death rate was 1.0 per 1000 of the population against 1.7 in 1954. Sixty-six cases of diphtheria were notified in 1914.

There have been no major changes in staff in 1954, and the health services have continued to run smoothly.

In June, the distribution of Welfare Foods, such as National Dried Milk, Cod Liver Oil, Orange Juice, and A. & D. Vitamin Tablets (previously carried out by the Ministry of Food) was taken over by the Ministry of Health and the duties delegated to the Local Health Authorities.

Fortunately, the Soke of Peterborough County Council were the owners of suitable and central premises situated at 36 Queen Street, Peterborough, and rooms were adapted and made available for use as a Welfare Food Distribution Centre. One full-time and three part-time clerks were appointed (later reduced to two) and also a full-time porter-handyman. The infant welfare centres in the villages were used as distribution centres, and in the village of Wansford (where there is no infant welfare centre) arrangements were made with a householder for her house to be continued to be used for the distribution of welfare foods in that area. The take-over was smooth and the scheme is working satisfactorily. The part-time clerks give assistance in the distribution and sale of welfare foods at the welfare clinics at the Town Hall and Dogsthorpe. I should like to express my thanks to the Women's Voluntary Service for their help in transporting the welfare foods to the various village clinics (especially to Mrs. Fowler) whose help and co-operation in this matter is much appreciated.

With the increasing population of the County, and the fact that this authority only employing one Social Welfare Worker, whose time is almost fully occupied with the care of mental defectives, and his work as Duly Authorised Officer, the bulk of the visiting, and reports, etc. under the National Assistance Act, falls to the Health Visitors, I feel that the time has now come when the Council should give consideration to increasing the health visitor establishment, as envisaged in the Development Plan under the Proposals submitted under the National Health Services Act, 1946.

There being no separate Welfare Department of the Soke of Peterborough County Council, much could be said of the Care of the Aged in this report, but as the duties of the Department Staff are carried out under the National Assistance Act and not the National Health Service or the Public Health Acts, they are not included, being probably of little more than local interest.

This Report is divided into four main sections as follows :—

- Section I. Statistics and Social Conditions.
- Section II. Provision of Health Services.
- Section III. Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.
- Section IV. Inspection and Supervision of Food.

I am glad of the opportunity of thanking the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and the members of the County Health Committee for the keen interest they have taken and for their continued support, and my staff (both professional and lay) for their loyal service during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE NISBET,

County Medical Officer.

County Council Offices,
Bridge Street,
Peterborough.

SECTION 1

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

General Statistics

Area of Administrative County (in acres)	...	...	...	...	53,464
Population (Census 1951)	...	...	...	...	63,784
Population (Registrar-General's estimate mid-1954)	...	...	...	...	65,600
Rateable Value (1st April, 1955)	...	...	...	...	£443,551
Estimated Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£1,725

Population by Districts

					Census 1951	Estimated mid-1954
City of Peterborough	...	...	...	...	53,412	54,240
Peterborough Rural District	...	...	...	...	7,273	7,560
Barnack Rural District	...	...	...	...	3,099	3,800
Administrative County	...	...	...	...	63,784	65,600

The estimated population for mid-1953 was 64,020. The Registrar-General estimates an increase of 570 in the City of Peterborough, an increase of 69 in the Peterborough Rural District, and an increase of 941 in the Barnack Rural District—a total increase of 1,580 in the County as a whole, compared with mid-1953.

Last year I drew attention to the fact that the Registrar-General had estimated a decrease in the population of the Barnack Rural District of 923 in the previous two years, which I found puzzling. It will be noted that in 1954 it is estimated that there has been an increase in the population in this District of 941, which leads me to think that something went wrong with the Registrar-General's estimating machinery in 1952-1953, probably due to the movement of service personnel.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954

Live Births

						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	514	460	974
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	29	34	63
Total	...	...	...	...	...	543	494	1037

Birth Rate per 1000 population ... 15.8

Birth Rate for England and Wales (provisional) 15.2

Stillbirths

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	8	8	16
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	8	8	16

Rate per 1,000 total and live births and still births... 15.2

Rate per 1,000 population ... 0.24

Rate per 1,000 total live and still births—
England and Wales... 23.4

						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	380	320	700
	Death Rate per 1,000 population	...				...	10.6	
	Death Rate for England and Wales...	...				...	11.3	

Infant Mortality						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	14	6	20
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Total	...	...	...	...	...	16	7	23

Rate per 1,000 live births :—

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	20.5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	47.6
Total	...	...	...	...	...	22.1

Deaths from Measles (all ages)...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0
Deaths from infective and other parasitic diseases (under 2 years)	...	...	...	0

Chief Causes of Death — 1954

Vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	117
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	114
Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	...	...	102
Other heart diseases	...	...	...	...	...	90
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	38
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	33
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	32
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	26

The deaths in age periods are as follows (Registrar-General's figures):—

0—1 years	...	...	...	...	...	23
0—5 „	...	...	...	...	...	4
5—15 „	...	...	...	...	...	3
15—25 „	...	...	...	...	...	10
25—45 „	...	...	...	...	...	33
45—65 „	...	...	...	...	...	149
65—75 „	...	...	...	...	...	197
75 „ and over	...	...	...	...	...	231

Births

The total number of live births in the County in 1954 was 1,037, compared with 1,056 in 1953; 978 in 1952; 993 in 1951, and 972 in 1950. The birth rate is 15.8 compared with 16.4 for 1953, and 15.2 (provisional figure) for England and Wales.

543 of the 1,037 children born in 1954 were males and 494 females. 974 were legitimate and 63 illegitimate, compared with 68 illegitimate births in 1953. The illegitimacy rate was 6.0 per 100 live births, compared with 6.8 in 1953.

The number of live births and the rates in each area of the County were:—

<i>Area</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Rate</i>
Peterborough City	425	394	819	15.1
Peterborough Rural District	83	65	148	19.5
Barnack Rural District ...	35	35	70	18.4
Administrative County ...	543	494	1,037	15.8

The live birth rate for England and Wales was 15.2

Our rate (15.8) is, therefore, again slightly higher than that of the country as a whole.

The birth rates in each year in the Soke of Peterborough since 1934 are as follows:—

1934—13.8	1941—14.1	1948—17.2
1935—14.1	1942—15.6	1949—15.8
1936—15.1	1943—16.5	1950—14.9
1937—14.3	1944—20.2	1951—15.4
1938—15.2	1945—17.8	1952—15.3
1939—14.1	1946—19.5	1953—15.8
1940—14.2	1947—19.8	1954—15.8

Stillbirths

The number of stillbirths in 1954 was 16 (10 in the City; five in the Peterborough Rural District, and one in the Barnack Rural District). The stillbirth rate is, therefore, 0.24 per 1,000 of the population, or 15.2 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, compared with a rate of 23.4 for England and Wales as a whole.

Thirteen of the 16 stillbirths occurred in Hospitals or maternity units attached to hospitals, and three occurred in domiciliary midwifery practice.

Infant Mortality

The Registrar-General records 23 deaths among infants aged one year in the County of the Soke of Peterborough in 1954, 20 being assigned to the City of Peterborough, 2 to the Peterborough Rural District, and 1 to the Barnack Rural District.

16 of the 23 deaths occurred in males and seven in females. Three of the infants who died were illegitimate.

The numbers and rates in each district of the Administrative County per 1,000 births were as follows:—

City of Peterborough	...	...	...	...	...	20	Rate	24.
Peterborough Rural District	...	...	...	...	...	2	„	13.
Barnack Rural District	...	...	...	...	...	1	„	14.
Administrative County	...	...	...	...	...	23	„	22.

In England and Wales as a whole the infant mortality rate was 25.5 per 1,000 related live births, and was the lowest ever recorded in this Country. In the Soke of Peterborough lower rates were recorded only in two previous years viz, 1950 and 1952.

I append a Table showing the live birth rates and infant mortality rates in England and Wales for the years 1943-54, and for comparison, similar rates for the Soke of Peterborough.

<i>Year</i>	England and Wales		Soke of Peterborough	
	<i>Live Births per 1,000 population</i>	<i>Infant Mortality Rate</i>	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Infant Mortality</i>
1943	16.2	49	16.5	44
1944	17.5	45	20.2	42
1945	16.1	46	17.8	41
1946	19.2	43	19.5	33
1947	20.6	41	19.8	30
1948	17.9	34	17.2	38
1949	16.7	32	15.8	26
1950	15.8	29	14.9	20
1951	15.5	29	15.4	29
1952	15.3	27	15.3	20
1953	15.5	26	16.4	26
1954	15.2	25	15.8	22

As many as 15 of the 23 infant deaths occurred in babies under four weeks of age. One died aged 10 minutes; one aged two hours; one aged seven hours; one aged ten hours; four aged one day; two aged two days; four aged three days, and one aged two weeks.

Of the remaining eight, two died aged one month; one aged two months; one aged three months; one aged four months; one aged five months; one aged nine months, and one aged ten months.

The causes of death of the 23 infants (as recorded on the death certificates) were as follows:—

Prematurity	...	...	...	10
Broncho-pneumonia	...	...	...	5
Gastro-enteritis	...	...	...	2
Pulmonary haemorrhage	...	...	...	2
Congenital abnormality	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Oedema	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary Atelectasis	...	...	...	1
Uraemia	...	...	...	1

Nineteen of the infants died in hospitals, or maternity units attached to hospitals, and four died at home.

Deaths

There were 700 deaths in the year 1954 (380 males and 320 females) giving a death rate of 10.6 per 1,000 of the population, compared with a rate of 11.1 in 1953; 10.8 in 1952, and 11.6 in 1951. The death rate for England and Wales in 1953 was 11.3.

478 of the deaths occurred in persons of 65 years or over, or 68 per cent of the total deaths. 281 deaths occurred in persons over the age of 75 years.

The following Table shows the death rates in the Soke of Peterborough since 1920:—

1920—12.6	1932—12.1	1944—11.3
1921—11.0	1933—13.4	1945—11.6
1922—11.0	1934—12.8	1946—11.8
1923—10.4	1935—10.9	1947—12.1
1924—11.3	1936—11.3	1948—10.6
1925—10.9	1937—12.0	1949—11.2
1926—13.0	1938—11.1	1950—11.7
1927—13.0	1939—12.4	1951—11.6
1928—11.7	1940—13.0	1952—10.8
1929—11.2	1941—11.3	1953—11.1
1930—11.2	1942—11.4	1954—10.6
1931—11.9	1943—12.7	

It will be noted that the death rate in the Soke of Peterborough in 1954 (10.6) is the lowest recorded since 1948, when the rate was the same as in 1954. In only one year since 1920 (in 1923) was there a lower rate.

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE

<i>Causes of Death</i>	<i>All ages</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1-5</i>	<i>5-15</i>	<i>15-25</i>	<i>25-45</i>	<i>45-65</i>	<i>65-75</i>	<i>75 & ove</i>
Tuberculosis									
respiratory ...	5			1		1	2	1	
Tuberculosis; other ...	1	1							
Syphilitic disease ...									
Diphtheria ...									
Whooping cough ...									
Meningococcal infections ...									
Acute poliomyelitis ...									
Measles ...									
Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	3				1		2		
Malignant neoplasm of stomach ...	17				1		4	8	4
Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus ...	19						11	7	1
Malignant neoplasm breast... ...	13						5	5	3
Malignant neoplasm uterus ...	3					1	2		
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasm	62			1		2	15	28	16
Leukaemia, alukaemia	6		1		1		4		
Diabetes ...	5					1	1	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous systems ...	117					1	20	39	57
Coronary disease, angina	102					3	25	35	39
Hypertension with heart disease ...	10						2	5	3
Other heart disease ...	90					1	9	21	59
Other circulatory disease ...	26					1	3	9	13
Influenza ...	1							1	
Pneumonia ...	33	4			2	4	8	4	11
Bronchitis ...	38					1	8	7	22
Other diseases of respiratory system ...	8				1		3	3	1
Ulcer of Stomach, duodenum ...	9					2	4	1	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	4	2						1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	4			1			1		2
Hyperplasia of prostate	6							4	2
Pregnancy, childbirth abortion ...									
Congenital malformations ...	3	2	1						
Other defined and ill- defined diseases ...	77	15			1	1	15	14	31
Motor vehicle accidents	9		1		2	3	1		2
All other accidents ...	23		1		2	7	3	2	8
Suicide ...	6					2	1	3	
Homicide and operations of war ...									
TOTALS ...	700	23	5	3	11	31	149	199	279

Cancer Deaths

There were 114 deaths from cancer in the Soke of Peterborough during the year 1954 (65 males and 49 females), giving a death rate of 1.7 per 1,000 of the population, compared with a rate of 1.8 in 1953, and 1.9 in 1952.

The number of deaths from cancer in each year since 1930 is as follows:—

1930—81	1939—86	1948—115
1931—92	1940—93	1949—104
1932—79	1941—96	1950—121
1933—110	1942—113	1951—98
1934—90	1943—112	1952—122
1935—72	1944—92	1953—121
1936—79	1945—96	1954—144
1937—83	1946—121	
1938—95	1947—125	

Nineteen of the 114 cancer deaths were due to malignant disease of the lung or bronchus, 18 of these being in males and one in a female.

There has been an increase in deaths from malignant disease of the lung and bronchus of nearly 100 per cent in this County in the five-year period 1950-1954 compared with the five-year period 1940-1944. The details are as follows:—

	1940	—	6 deaths
	1941	—	4 „
	1942	—	12 „
	1943	—	12 „
	1944	—	6 „
			—
Total			40 „
	1950	—	15 deaths
	1951	—	11 „
	1952	—	16 „
	1953	—	14 „
	1954	—	19 „
			—
Total			75 „
			—

There were 13 deaths from carcinoma of the breast compared with 10 in 1953 and 11 in 1952, and 17 deaths from malignant disease of the stomach compared with 19 last year and 25 in 1952.

General Remarks

There are one or two brief observations I should like to make with regard to the deaths in the Soke of Peterborough in 1954.

Since 1920 the death rate has only once been lower; that was in 1923, when the rate was 10.4 per 1,000 of the population. The rate for 1954 was equalled in 1948, when it was also 10.6 per 1,000.

I should again draw your attention to the small number of deaths due to respiratory tuberculosis. According to the Registrar-General, five people only (three males and two females) died from this disease in the County in 1954, which gives the low death rate of 0.07 per 1,000 of the population, compared with an even lower rate of 0.06 last year. The rate for England and Wales is 0.16, compared with a rate of 0.20 in 1953.

32 deaths are attributed to accidental causes, nine being due to motor accidents (compared with 11 in 1953).

There is a reduction of 100 per cent in deaths from suicide (six compared with 12 last year). These were all of persons living in the City area, three being males and three females.

I am pleased to report that in 1954 there were no deaths due to pregnancy and childbirth, and one death only from influenza, compared with nine last year. No deaths were attributed to syphilitic disease, poliomyelitis, whooping cough, diphtheria, or measles, and three only from other infective and parasitic diseases.

24 deaths occurred in persons of 90 years of age or over. Five were males and 19 females. There were seven deaths only in young persons aged between 1 and 15 years, 2 of these being due to accidents.

SECTION II

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Administration

The County Council, as a Local Health Authority, established a County Health Committee in accordance with the requirements of the National Health Service Act, 1946. The County Health Committee has, in turn, established the following Sub-Committees, which meet once monthly:—

- (a) Care of the Aged Sub-Committee (dealing with all matters under the National Assistance Act, 1948).
- (b) Ambulance Sub-Committee.
- (c) Mental Health Sub-Committee.
- (d) Maternity and Domiciliary Services Sub-Committee.
- (e) Prevention of Illness and After-Care Sub-Committee.

The majority of the members of each of the Sub-Committees are members of the Local Health Authority, but there are also co-opted persons who have a special interest in the subjects dealt with by the individual Committees.

SECTION 22 — Care of Mothers and Young Children

Ante-Natal Clinics

Ante-Natal Clinics are held at "The Gables" Maternity Hospital, Peterborough for patients who have booked for admission to the Maternity Units of the Regional Hospital Board. Blood testing is carried out as a matter of routine.

A considerable number of women are attended ante-natally by their own doctors. Therefore, no doctors' ante-natal clinics are held under the auspices of the Local Health Authority.

A Midwives' ante-natal clinic is, however, held at the Child Welfare Centre at the Town Hall, Peterborough, on four afternoons a week for patients who have booked a domiciliary midwife for their confinement. Blood testing is not carried out at these clinics, but the majority of general practitioners now make these tests, and arrangements have been made for me to receive the results of the tests.

During the year 1954, 397 women attended these clinics (315 being new cases) and the total attendances were 1,066, compared with 1,277 attendances made by 366 women in 1953.

Mothercraft classes are held weekly at the Child Welfare Centre, Town Hall, and continue to increase in popularity. Invitations to attend these classes are sent by post from my office to all expectant mothers, including those who have booked for admission to the Maternity Units (a weekly list of such bookings being supplied to me).

During the year 1954, 147 mothers attended the Mothercraft Classes, compared with 118 in 1953 and 62 in 1952.

Relaxation courses for expectant mothers were started at the Infant Welfare Centre, Town Hall in September, 1954 and up to the end of the year 25 mothers had attended these classes.

Child Welfare Centres

There were 12 child welfare centres maintained by the Local Health Authority at the end of the year. These were situated as follows:—

(1) Town Hall, Peterborough	Tuesday mornings and afternoons. Wednesday afternoons.
(2) Mountsteven Avenue, Walton, Peterborough	Monday and Thursday afternoons.
(3) Dogsthorpe/Newark School, Peterborough	Monday and Thursday afternoons.
(4) Barnack	First Wednesday and Third Thursday after- noons each month.
(5) Castor	Second and fourth Tuesday afternoons each month.
(6) Eye	First and third Tuesday afternoons each month.
(7) Glinton	First Thursday and third Wednesday after- noons each month.
(8) Helpston	Fourth Wednesday afternoon each month.
(9) Marholm	Second Thursday afternoon each month.
(10) Maxey	Fourth Thursday afternoon each month.
(11) Newborough	Second and fourth Tuesday afternoons each month.
(12) Wittering	First and third Tuesday afternoons each month.

Owing to the small numbers attending, the Marholm Clinic was discontinued early in 1955.

There are no voluntary child welfare centres in the County, although voluntary workers assist at the Local Authority's Clinics, and their services are much appreciated.

I append a statistical record of the work performed at the child welfare clinics during the year 1954:—

Number of Centres provided at the end of the year	...	...	...	12
Number of Child Welfare Sessions held per month	...	...	...	44
Number of children who first attended during the year, and who, at their first attendance were under one year of age	...	...	...	613
Number of children who attended during the year and who were born in:	1954	...	...	570
	1953	...	...	484
	1952-49	...	...	304
Total number of children who attended during the year	...	...	...	1,358
Number of attendances during the year made by children who at the date of attendance were:				
(a) Under one year	...	...	...	9,964
(b) One, but under two years	...	...	...	1,675
(c) Two, but under five years	...	...	...	583
Total attendances during the year	...	...	...	12,222

The Mothers' Club, inaugurated in 1953, continues its popularity. It was formed for the mothers of infants attending the Child Welfare Centres in the City of Peterborough and meets at the Welfare Centre premises, Town Hall on the first Wednesday of each month for talks on health subjects, social activities etc. An outing to the seaside is arranged in the summer. The number of mothers attending the Club each month varies between 40 and 50.

Premature Births

Babies weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or less at birth, irrespective of the period of gestation, are classified as premature, and arrangements are made for this information to be supplied by doctors and midwives when notifying the birth of a child.

A specially equipped premature baby cot is provided by the Local Health Authority. It is held at "The Gables" and is taken from there to any address where it may be required.

44 premature live births were notified during the year. 8 of these births occurred at home and 36 in hospital. In addition five premature still-births were notified; all the births occurring in hospital.

Three of the premature babies born in hospital died within 24 hours, their weight at birth being 3 lb., 4 ozs., or less.

Day Nursery

One Day Nursery (situated in Granville Street, Peterborough) is maintained by the Local Health Authority.

The number of approved places is:—

Children aged 0-2 years...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Children aged 2-5 years...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Total	...	...	...	...	...	45

The number of children on the Register at the end of the year was:—

Children aged 0-2 years...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Children aged 2-5 years...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Total	...	...	...	...	...	41

Unmarried Mothers and Care of Illegitimate Children

Arrangements for the care of unmarried mothers are made in liaison with Miss A. D. M. Fyfe, M.A., the Moral Welfare Worker (appointed and paid by the Peterborough Women and Girls' Help Society).

Applications were made during 1954 for the admission of 11 unmarried mothers to Maternity Homes at the expense of the Local Authority, compared with five applications in 1953.

Special visits are made by the Health Visitors to all unmarried mothers and their children. The Children's Officer and Miss Fyfe assist, where necessary, in securing the adoption of illegitimate children into suitable homes, although it is the policy first, to endeavour to find foster parents, or to admit the children to the Day Nursery in cases where the mother has to go out to work.

Dental Care

The Local Health Authority is not responsible for the School Medical Service, and therefore employs no Dental Officer.

A full-time Dental Officer is, however, employed by the Peterborough Joint Education Board, which is an independent Authority. Unofficially and on a purely personal basis the School Dental Surgeon does treat a number of pre-school children at the School Dental Clinic, and during the year 1954, 40 such children were examined and 37 were found to require treatment and were duly treated.

I very much appreciate this helpful co-operation of Mr. T. H. Roberts, L.D.S.

Maternity Outfits

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, these outfits are supplied free of charge in domiciliary confinements, and can be obtained on application to the Superintendent Nursing Officer, Town Hall, Peterborough. The number issued in the year 1954 was 320.

Welfare Foods

On the 28th June, 1954 the distribution of welfare foods (national dried milk, orange juice, cod liver oil, and vitamin A & D tablets), hitherto carried out by the Ministry of Food, was taken over by the Ministry of Health, and Local Health Authorities were instructed to undertake this duty from that date.

These welfare foods are available to expectant and nursing mothers, and children up to five years of age, and are obtained by means of tokens issued by the Ministry of Food through the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance Offices. Dried milk is supplied at a cost of 10½d. (in postage stamps) per tin, and Orange Juice at 5d. (in postage stamps) per bottle. Vitamin A & D Tablets and Cod Liver Oil are supplied free of charge.

A main Welfare Food Distribution Centre was set up at 36 Queen Street, Peterborough (in the City centre) in premises already owned by the County Council. A staff of one full-time and three part-time clerks (later reduced to two), and in addition a full-time porter-handyman, was appointed. A branch distribution centre was established in the village of Wansford in a private house, a small remuneration being paid to the householder for the use of her room, and for acting as part-time clerk.

The scheme is working satisfactorily.

SECTION 23—Midwives Service

The number of midwives who notified their intention to practice in the County in 1954 was 24. Of these, 14 were working in institutions, 2 in private nursing homes, 2 as private midwives, and 6 were engaged in domiciliary practice under the County Council.

6 full-time domiciliary midwives are employed by the Local Health Authority. Each has a car, and therefore are able to cover the whole County adequately, if called upon.

The number of deliveries attended by the midwives during 1954, showing the number of cases in which a doctor was present :—

DOMICILIARY CASES

	<i>Doctor not booked</i>		<i>Doctor booked</i>		<i>Total</i>	<i>Cases in Institutions</i>
	<i>Doctor present at delivery</i>	<i>Doctor not present</i>	<i>Doctor present at delivery</i>	<i>Doctor not present</i>		
Midwives employed by the Authority ...	6	265	46	80	397	
Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees ...	—	—				1,022
Midwives in Private Practice (including Nursing Homes) ...	—	—	1	—	1	41
Totals ...	6	265	47	80	396	1,063

It will be noted that the County Council midwives attended a total of 397 cases in 1954, compared with a total of 395 in 1953, 319 in 1952, and 257 in 1951.

Analgesia

All the midwives employed by the County Council are qualified to administer gas and air analgesia in accordance with the requirements of the Central Midwives' Board. An apparatus is available for use by every midwife and analgesia was administered during labour to 273 women (domiciliary confinements). Pethedine is also administered by the midwives in domiciliary practice—112 such administrations being made in 1954.

The County Medical Officer is responsible for the medical supervision of the midwives, and the Superintendent Nursing Officer is responsible for the day to day administration.

SECTION 24—Health Visiting

The Local Health Authority's establishment allows for six full-time Health Visitors (including one employed wholly as a Tuberculosis Health Visitor), and during the year the approved establishment was fully made up.

The following is a summary of visits paid by the Health Visitors during the year 1954:—

(a) Home Visits

	<i>First visits</i>	<i>Total visits</i>
Number of children under five years of age visited during the year ...		4,954
Expectant Mothers ...	153	221
Children under 1 year of age ...	1,036	3,223
Children aged 1 but under 2 years ...		1,859
Children aged 2 but under 5 years ...		4,363
Tuberculosis Households (Total visits) ...		16
Total visits paid to tuberculosis households ...		2,655
Other Cases (Total visits) ...		3,549
Total number of families or households visited by Health Visitors ...		10,856

(b) Clinics

Total number of attendances made by Health Visitors at Local Health Authority Clinic sessions during the year	...	...	...	604
Total number of attendances by whole-time tuberculosis visitors at chest clinic sessions during the year	...	...	...	358

Four of the Health Visitors (including the Tuberculosis Health Visitor) have cars and are classed as "essential users". A fifth Health Visitor will shortly be provided with a car.

In addition to attendance at welfare clinics and visiting expectant and nursing mothers and young children, the Health Visitors (usually the Superintendent Nursing Officer) investigate the home conditions of women whose confinement in hospital is recommended on social grounds, patients discharged from hospital, certain senile and chronic sick persons, etc. A liaison with the Local Psychiatric Clinic and the Psychiatrists at the Mental Hospital (which Peterborough patients attend, usually voluntarily) has been built up. This home visiting, particularly in the case of women patients, is valued as an important step in mental health work, assisting often in keeping patients out of the mental hospital and preventing relapses.

SECTION 25—Home Nursing

In the City of Peterborough, home nursing is undertaken by the Florence Saunders Nursing Association on an agency basis, six whole-time nurses being employed.

In the rural areas of the County three full-time district nurses are employed by the Local Health Authority. Each nurse is provided with a car, so that the whole rural area is adequately covered by these nurses, who reside at Barnack, Castor and Ginton (the Castor District Nurse retired in 1955, and her place has been taken by a nurse who is now living at Walton).

Patients requiring nursing are usually notified to the District Nurse direct by General Practitioners. The Hospital Almoner contacts the nurses about cases needing nursing care on discharge from Hospital.

I append details of the work carried out by the District Nurses during the year 1954:—

							<i>No of Cases</i>	<i>No. of Visits</i>
Medical	...	...	...	...	...	...	575	17,685
Surgical	...	...	...	...	...	...	103	2,291
Maternal Complications	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	103
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	21	488
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	...	713	20,567

The care and nursing of old people absorbs a large part of the nurses' time, 424 of the 713 cases and 16,366 of the 20,567 visits were patients of 65 years or over at the time of the first visit during the year.

No night service is provided, but evening visits are made by the District Nurses if necessary.

SECTION 26—Vaccination and Immunisation

In this County, vaccination and diphtheria immunisation are carried out by General Practitioners, the fees for completed record cards being paid by the Local Health Authority.

Every effort is made by persuasion and propaganda to get children vaccinated and immunised, and each year a special propaganda campaign is initiated.

If a doctor returns a card where immunisation has not been completed a visit is paid to the home by the Health Visitor to find out the reason, and to persuade the parents to take the child to have the course completed.

The Health Visitors also impress upon parents the need for vaccination and diphtheria immunisation at the routine visits; posters are displayed in the Welfare Centres, propaganda literature is regularly sent out from the County Health Office and is available for distribution at the Child Welfare Clinics.

So far as diphtheria immunisation is concerned, the General Practitioners co-operate by giving special times when parents can take their infants to the surgeries to avoid waiting, and when notices are sent out from my office to the parents of infants who have reached the age of eight months, the parents are informed of the special days and times when their own Medical Practitioner is available to carry out immunisation. If it is found that a child has not been immunised when it reaches the age of one year a " Birthday Greeting " card is sent, reminding parents of the importance of this.

In addition, the importance of " boosting " injections of diphtheria prophylactic is stressed by both Health Visitors and the School Medical Officers (when children are medically examined on admission to school), and General Practitioners co-operate well with regard to this.

Up to the present this Authority has made no arrangements for immunisation against whooping cough.

The statistics for vaccination and diphtheria immunisation in relation to the year 1954 are appended:—

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children at 31/12/54 who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1/1/1940.

<i>Age at 31/12/54 i.e. born in year</i>	<i>Under 1 1954</i>	<i>1-4 1953-50</i>	<i>5-9 1949-45</i>	<i>10-14 1944-40</i>	<i>Under 15 Total</i>
Last complete course of injections					
A. 1950-1954	98	2,451	1,523	286	4,358
B. 1949 or earlier	—	—	2,321	3,145	5,457
C. Estimated mid-year child population	1,040	3,960	9,200		14,200
Immunity Index	9.4%	61.8%	78.9%		69.1%

If diphtheria is to be kept at bay, it is essential that at least 75% of children under 15 years of age should be effectively immunised. This means that they

should have received some protection within the last five years. The percentage of the child population thus protected is referred to as the "immunity index", and while it is disappointing to note that the index in this area is below 75%, it was higher in 1954 than in the previous year (69.1% compared with 62.1%).

Vaccination

Number of Persons Vaccinated (or re-vaccinated)
during the year ended 31/12/54.

<i>Age at date of vaccination</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15 or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number Vaccinated ...	373	26	17	15	43	474
Number re-Vaccinated	—	—	—	8	77	85

In 1953, 357 children were vaccinated and 82 re-vaccinated.

SECTION 27—Ambulance Service

The County Council is responsible under the National Health Service Act, 1946, for arranging the conveyance of sick and injured persons who are unfit to travel by ordinary means of transport, where the necessity arises. The area covered by the County Ambulance Service is the whole County of the Soke of Peterborough, and certain adjoining areas, e.g., Old Fletton U.D.; Norman Cross R.D.; Conington Parish (Hunts.) and Crowland District (Holland).

The Service is equipped with the following vehicles:—

Ambulances

- 1 Daimler 27 h.p. Ambulance.
- 1 Chevrolet (1941) 30 h.p.
- 2 Austin "Welfarer" Ambulances, one of which has been converted into a sitting case ambulance.
- 1 Talbot (1937) 18 h.p. (Maintained by Police Authority for use by Coroner's Officer, on loan basis).

Sitting Case Cars

- 2 Austin 16 h.p. Hire Cars.

The above Service is augmented as follows:—

Hospital Car Service

Organised by W.V.S.

St. John Ambulance Brigade, Peterborough

One Ambulance available for long runs if 24 hours' notice is given.

St. John Ambulance Brigade, Stamford

Two ambulances available for service in the Barnack Rural District for all stretcher (except infectious and mental patients) and sitting car cases.

British Red Cross (Kesteven)

One light ambulance and four private cars available for sitting cases in the Barnack Rural District.

The following figures indicate the work of the County Ambulance Service during 1954, and for comparison the figures for 1953 are also given, which show the upward trend in the number of patients carried and in the mileage :—

				<i>Total Patients Carried</i>		<i>Total Miles</i>	
				1953	1954	1953	1954
Directly Provided Service							
Ambulances	...	...	...	4,400	5,361	45,564	44,605
Sitting Case Cars	...	...	...	7,683	7,131	74,614	73,628
Agency Services							
St. John Ambulance (Stamford)	...			58	99	750	1,375
British Red Cross (Kesteven)	...			192	327	4,182	6,884
Supplementary Services							
St. John Ambulance (Peterborough)				4	—	426	
Hospital Car Service	...	...		597	830	38,432	47,695
Totals	...	...	...	12,934	13,748	163,968	174,187

It will be noted that the increase in patients carried and mileage in 1954 was borne by the agency and supplementary services, there being a slight decrease in the figures for the directly provided service. With the increasing population of the County and the erection of new housing estates it is inevitable that the calls upon the ambulance service will increase year by year.

SECTION 28—Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care

Tuberculosis

The Authority's responsibility is in relation to prevention, care and after-care, treatment being provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

One full-time Tuberculosis Health Visitor is employed by the Local Health Authority. She works in close co-operation with the Chest Physicians of the Regional Hospital Board, and in addition to assisting them at the Chest Clinics she carries out home nursing of tuberculosis patients, visits all contacts to investigate home conditions, and to persuade them to come to the Chest Clinic for examination, carries out "Patch" testing of children, etc.

A report on the environmental condition of each case of tuberculosis notified is submitted by the After-Care Tuberculosis Nurse to the County Medical Officer, who takes steps to see that all contacts are traced and, if possible, called up for examination by the Chest Physician.

Beds, bedding, open-air shelters and nursing requisites are available for patients being nursed at home. These patients also receive domestic help if required, and 12 such patients were assisted during the year. Free milk is provided for tuberculosis patients in necessitous cases.

In addition, arrangements exist with the Settlements for the reception of suitable patients. When these patients are able to work at least five hours a day the County Council accepts financial responsibility for their maintenance.

During the year 1954 there were two patients at Papworth Village Settlement and one at Preston Hall.

Other Types of Illness

For the care and after-care of the non-tuberculosis sick, the Authority provides nursing equipment and apparatus required by patients being nursed at home, such as wheel chairs, bed rests, bed pans, urinals, mackintosh sheeting, etc.

As with the tuberculous, domestic help is available, and 120 chronic sick persons received domestic help during the year.

Health Education

Health education plays an important part in the prevention of illness and I lay great stress upon this. Pamphlets on health matters and copies of the journal "Better Health" are distributed free of charge at the welfare clinics. Copies of "The Family Doctor" are also available at the usual price.

The County Medical Officer and other members of the County Public Health staff frequently give talks and lectures to social, religious, and other organisations on various aspects of health, hygiene, and accidents in the home. Flannelgraph and filmstrip lectures are frequently given to mothers attending the Mothers' Club and the Mothercraft Classes.

SECTION 29—Domestic Help Service

Home Helps are provided for households where assistance is needed because of illness, confinement, old age, etc. The amount of help given varies according to the needs of the individual assisted.

At the end of the year 1954, 27 part-time and four whole-time domestic helps were employed. They are under the supervision and direction of a part-time Home Help Organiser working officially, 24 hours per week. During the year another part-time assistant Home Help Organiser was appointed, who commenced duty on 24/6/1954.

In 1954, 285 cases were assisted, compared with 298 in 1953, 211 in 1952, 240 in 1951, and 204 in 1950.

The 285 cases comprised:—

(1) Maternity (including expectant mothers)	...	...	...	78
(2) Tuberculosis...	...	...	...	12
(3) Chronic sick including aged and infirm	...	...	...	120
(4) Others	...	...	...	75
Total	...	...	...	285

SECTION 51—Mental Health Service

1. ADMINISTRATION

(a) Constitution and Meetings of Mental Health Sub-Committee.

The Mental Health Sub-Committee of the County Health Committee deal with the functions connected with the care and welfare of mental patients and mental defectives, and consists of eight members of the County Council and three co-opted members, one of whom is a retired Medical Practitioner of many years' experience. The Sub-Committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month.

(b) Staff

The County Medical Officer of Health is Medical Adviser to the Committee and there is one Duly Authorised Officer, one Deputy Duly Authorised Officer (who is also Chief Clerk in the Public Health Department) and one Occupation Centre Supervisor, who is a certificated Teacher.

(c) Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards, etc.

The co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards continues to be good, although the accommodation in Mental Defective Institutions has not improved and considerable delay is still experienced in the admission of defectives. It is to be hoped this position will be eased somewhat when the new wing is completed at Little Plumstead Hospital.

The Consultant Psychiatrists for the area have been of great assistance in helping to cope with the difficult cases arising from time to time, and the closest co-operation has been established between officers of the Regional Hospital Board and Local Health Authority.

(d) Delegation of Duties

No duties under the Mental Health Service are delegated to Voluntary Associations.

2. ACCOUNT OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY**(a) Prevention, Care and After-Care**

One of the measures taken to prevent mental-illness, is the psychiatric clinic at the local general hospital. This is held one day a week (Wednesdays) and is staffed by Consultant Psychiatrists from Rauceby Hospital, which is located in the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board area.

General Practitioners in the area are aware of this facility and can arrange an appointment at the clinic for any of their patients suffering from mental illness.

This Clinic continues to prove its great value, and in consequence many cases have been admitted into mental hospitals as "Voluntary Patients," thus reducing the number of "Certified" patients. It has also created a more enlightened attitude towards mental hospitals and mental illness.

Care and after-care of the mentally ill and mental defectives is carried out by the Duly Authorised Officer, assisted when considered necessary by Health Visitor Staff. He visits the homes of all persons who are on licence from Mental Hospitals and Mental Defective Institutions who reside within the area of the Local Health Authority.

When a patient is discharged from Rauceby Mental Hospital, the Medical Superintendent sends to the patient's General Practitioner a report on his or her progress whilst in the Hospital, together with his recommendations as to future treatment, if necessary. A copy of this report is supplied to the County Medical Officer.

The Psychiatric Social Worker, attached to the Mental Hospital, and the Duly Authorised Officer, have continued their regular discussions regarding the care and after-care of patients.

(b) Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts

The Duly Authorised Officer deals with all matters arising under these Acts, arranging admissions to hospital of patients, and, where necessary, providing the transport thereto.

The general policy is to assist Medical Practitioners and the public in every aspect of the Mental Health Service and this way a happy relationship has been built up, ensuring a close liaison and full co-operation from all concerned.

Whenever necessary, the Duly Authorised Officer assists persons discharged from mental hospitals or mental defective institutions to obtain suitable employment. This is usually done through the Ministry of Labour and National Service with whom there is the closest co-operation and understanding.

The number of cases in Mental Hospitals under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts on 31st December, 1954, was as follows:—

<i>Name of Hospital</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Bracebridge Heath Hospital	2	14	16
Cambridge (Fulbourn Hospital)	1	1	2
Derby Borough (Kingsway Hospital)	—	2	2
Leicester City (The Towers Hospital)	1	4	5
Leicester County (Carlton Hayes Hospital)	1	2	3
Leavesden	1	—	1
Nottingham, City (Mapperley Hospital)	1	1	2
Rauceby Hospital	77	83	160
Upton Mental Hospital, Chester	—	1	1
Central Mental Hospital, Nr. Warwick	1	—	1
	85	108	193

During the year 1954 the total number of admissions to Mental Hospitals was 149. This number includes 6 patients who were admitted on two occasions during the year. Of the 149 admissions, 106 (or 71.2%) were admitted as Voluntary Patients, 37 (or 24.8%) as Certified Patients and 6 (or 4%) under Section 20.

(c) **Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938**

For the ascertainment of mental defectives within the area arrangements exist whereby all departments of the County Council dealing with pre-school children, refer any retarded child over two years of age to the County Medical Officer for investigation. The County Medical Officer is also the Principal School Medical Officer and thus all school children are brought to his notice, and, where necessary, referred to the Local Health Authority.

The Duly Authorised Officer supervises Mental Defectives and visits those on licence, under Guardianship and Statutory Supervision at least once a quarter. In addition, at the request of Hospital Management Committees and other Local Health Authorities, he visits and reports on home circumstances of patients where the Statutory reconsideration of Orders, applications for leave of absence or licence are being considered.

The County Medical Officer is kept in touch with these cases and, where necessary, visits and examines the patients in their own homes, in addition to his Statutory routine visits of inspection.

Beside the Statutory obligations placed upon the Local Health Authority to see that the patient is well cared for and under suitable control, help and advice are given in obtaining employment, medical treatment and personal problems which beset these people.

Training of Mental Defectives

The Council has one Occupation Centre, situate at the Town Hall, Peterborough, where classes are held each Wednesday and Friday afternoon. The Centre Supervisor is Mrs. Frank Cheney, of whose work I cannot speak too highly. Her enthusiasm is unbounded. Most defectives who are capable of receiving instruction attend the classes and great benefit is derived by them from the instruction and their social contacts. There is, without doubt, a growing need in this area for an extension of this type of instruction.

On 31st December, 1954 the following Mental Defectives were in Institutions, on Licence, under Guardianship and Statutory Supervision:—

<i>In Institutions</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
St. John's Hospital, Peterborough	...	...	...	...	...	16	13	29
Stoke Park Colony, Nr. Bristol	...	...	...	...	...	6	5	11
Whittington Hall, Nr. Chesterfield	...	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
Riversfield Home, St. Neots	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3
Risbridge Home, Haverhill	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Bradwell Grove Hospital, Burford	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Little Plumstead Hospital, Norwich	...	...	...	...	...	15	7	22
Great Barr Colony, West Bromwich	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Bourne Institution, Bourne, Lincs.	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Lisieux Hall, Chorley...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
Rampton State Institution	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
						47	31	78
On Licence						4	6	10
Under Guardianship						2	—	2
Under Statutory Supervision						31	38	69
Cases awaiting admission to Institution						5	1	6
Cases ascertained during the Year						4	2	6

Application has been made to the Regional Hospital Board for a vacancy in an Institution in respect of one of the cases ascertained during the year, and this case, together with the other cases ascertained, has been placed under Statutory Supervision.

Short-Term Cases

During the year two defectives were admitted into Institutions in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 5/52. This was for short-term care due to the illness of their parents.

3. Ambulance Service

The Ambulance Service is available for the conveyance of patients to Mental Hospitals and Mental Defective Institutions and no difficulty has been experienced in this direction, although on two occasions persons escorting patients have been ill due, in no small measure, to the condition of the ambulance vehicle.

The arrangements with the Hospital Management Committee whereby trained nurses are available to accompany patients continues to work smoothly.

HANDICAPPED PERSONS

Epileptics and Spastics

As I stated in my last year's report, no comprehensive Welfare Scheme for handicapped persons has yet been approved in this area. There is little information available about the incidence of epilepsy and cerebral palsy in adults, although in my capacity as School Medical Officer I am, of course, aware of such cases occurring among the school population. A "pilot" survey directed by the Dept. of Human Ecology, Cambridge University, has been made in the County Area.

The "problem" case of epilepsy, referred to in my last report, has received brain operative treatment at Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, with, I believe, considerable improvement in his condition.

Blind Persons

The welfare of the blind in the Soke of Peterborough is undertaken by the Peterborough Association for the Blind, acting as agents of the County Council.

The Executive Committee consists of 16 members, 9 of whom are appointed by the County Health Committee, and 7 by the Peterborough Blind Association.

The Ophthalmic Surgeon to the Peterborough Blind Association is Dr. J. H. Gann, M.R.C.S., and the Secretary and Blind Teacher is Miss M. H. P. White.

The number of registered blind persons in the County at 31st December, 1954 was 145, their sexes and ages being as follows:—

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
5 — 10	1	1	2
11 — 15	2	1	3
16 — 20	—	—	—
21 — 30	1	2	3
31 — 39	3	2	5
40 — 49	3	1	4
50 — 59	8	4	12
60 — 64	7	4	11
65 — 69	6	9	15
70 plus	40	50	90
Totals	71	74	145

The following Table gives particulars of the 34 blind and partially-sighted (P/S/) cases certified on Form B.D. 8 in the County during 1954.

	<i>Causes of Disability</i>							
	<i>Cataract</i>		<i>Glaucoma</i>		<i>Retrolental Fibroplasia</i>		<i>Others</i>	
	<i>Blind</i>	<i>P/S</i>	<i>Blind</i>	<i>P/S</i>	<i>Blind</i>	<i>P/S</i>	<i>Blind</i>	<i>P/S</i>
(i) No of cases registered during the year in respect of which para. 7 (c) of Forms B.D. 8 recommends								
(a) No treatment ...	14	2	2	—	—	—	3	3
(b) Treatment (medical, surgical or optical ...	6	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
(ii) No. of cases at (i) (b) above, which on follow-up action have received treatment	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—

The Report of the Peterborough Association for the Blind covers the period 1/4/54 to 31/3/55.

During this period 2,125 visits were paid by the Home Teacher compared with 1,828 in the previous year. Handicrafts and reading of raised type were taught.

There were 22 registered blind persons in St. John's Close or in Hospital.

Partially Sighted

There were 29 cases on the register of partially sighted on 31/3/55, the names of 6 men and 5 women having been added during the year. Care is taken that these cases are seen at required intervals by the Ophthalmic Surgeons.

Welfare Work

The Social Club is still very popular and the membership grows each year. Meetings are held fortnightly at the St. John Ambulance Hut, loaned free of charge.

The Harp Orchestra have given a full programme of concerts which have been greatly appreciated.

Mr. J. A. Fowler gave an outing and tea to the blind people and their friends, and a New Year's Party was given by the Association, followed by a concert given by the Nene Valley Singers and others.

Grants have been made in cases of illness to several blind persons, and one man and one woman have been helped to go away for convalescence after prolonged illness.

SECTION III

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases

300 cases of infectious disease were notified to the District Medical Officers of Health during 1954, compared with 379 in 1953; 2,016 in 1952, and 868 in 1951.

I am pleased to report that no cases of poliomyelitis were notified in 1954, compared with 17 cases notified in 1953, and 5 cases in 1952.

There was a striking reduction in the number of cases of puerperal pyrexia notified in 1954, four only, compared with 54 in 1953.

There was a slight increase in notifications of scarlet fever, and whooping cough. 23 cases of measles only were notified in 1954, compared with 114 in 1953.

The following Table shows the number of cases of each disease notified in the various sanitary districts:—

<i>Disease</i>				<i>Peterboro' M.B.</i>	<i>Peterboro' R.D.</i>	<i>Barnack R.D.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	39	7	26	72
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	125	12	11	148
Measles	...	...	...	18	4	1	23
Pneumonia	...	...	...	36	1	6	43
Erysipelas	...	...	...	6	1	—	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	4	—	—	4
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	3	—	—	3
Totals	...	...	...	231	25	44	300

Tuberculosis

During 1954 there were 77 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one of non-respiratory tuberculosis notified.

The following Table shows the age groups and sexes of the new cases notified in 1954:—

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>
0 — 1	—	1	—	—	—	1
1 — 2	1	—	—	—	1	—
2 — 5	2	—	—	1	2	1
5 — 10	2	—	—	—	2	—
10 — 15	1	1	—	—	1	1
15 — 20	3	4	—	—	3	4
20 — 25	8	10	—	—	8	10
25 — 35	9	7	—	—	9	7
35 — 45	4	3	—	—	4	3
45 — 55	7	1	—	—	7	1
55 — 65	10	2	—	—	10	2
65 — 75	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total	47	30	—	1	47	31

The incidence of notifications per 1,000 of the population is 1.2, compared with 0.92 in 1953, 1.5 in 1952, 1.02 in 1951, and 1.2 in 1950.

It will be noted that eight cases of respiratory tuberculosis and the one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis occurred in children under the age of 15 years. This is a comparatively new phenomenon. Fifteen or twenty years ago it was most unusual for more than one or two cases of respiratory tuberculosis in children to be notified in this County in one year. In 1953 nearly one-fifth of the total new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified in the Soke of Peterborough occurred in children under the age of 15 years.

Deaths

According to the statistics supplied by the Registrar-General, five deaths only were attributed to respiratory tuberculosis in the County in 1954, three being males and two females. This gives a death rate of 0.07 per 1,000, compared with a rate of 0.06 in 1953; 0.13 in 1952; 0.21 in 1951; and 0.15 in 1950. The death rate for England and Wales in 1954 was 0.16.

One death is attributed to non-respiratory tuberculosis.

For a number of years there have been more deaths in the Soke of Peterborough due to motor accidents and suicides than to tuberculosis.

I append a table in relation to respiratory tuberculosis, showing the number of notifications and deaths in the County during the last 20 years, and the incidence of deaths to new notifications:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>New Notifications</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Percentage of deaths to notifications</i>
1935	28	13	46.4
1936	39	21	53.8
1937	40	31	77.5
1938	29	18	62.0
1939	24	24	100.0
1940	25	8	32.0
1941	31	18	58.0
1942	43	22	51.1
1943	42	21	50.0
1944	43	11	25.8
1945	46	20	43.4
1946	43	23	53.4
1947	58	15	25.8
1948	28	19	67.8
1949	42	10	23.8
1950	73	10	13.7
1951	58	14	24.3
1952	84	9	10.7
1953	53	4	7.5
1954	77	5	6.5

The average number of deaths per year during the ten-year period 1935-1944 was 18.7, compared with an average during the ten-year period 1945-1954 of 12.9, whereas the average number of notifications during the ten-year period 1935-44 was 34.4, compared with an average of 56.2 during the latter ten-year period.

Residential Accommodation

All admissions to Sanatoria are arranged by the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board, and patients are usually admitted within a few weeks of their names being submitted to the Regional Hospital "Bed-finding" Bureau.

During the year a total of 69 patients from the Soke of Peterborough were admitted to Sanatoria, viz., 40 men, 22 women and 7 children, compared with a total of 64 admitted in 1953.

At the end of the year 55 patients from the Soke of Peterborough were accommodated in the following Institutions:—

<i>Sanatorium</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>
Kelling Sanatorium	11	—	—
Papworth Hall, Cambridge	7	8	—
Nayland Sanatorium, Colchester	—	12	—
Children's Sanatorium, Holt	—	—	5
Fletcher Convalescent Home, Cromer	—	—	1
Manfield Orthopaedic Hospital	—	—	1
Bourne Isolation Hospital	8	1	—
Park Sanatorium, Davos, Switzerland	—	1	—
Totals	26	22	7

Three patients were awaiting admission to Sanatoria at the end of the year.

Prevention of Tuberculosis

The Consultant Chest Physician (Dr. G. B. Royce) submits quarterly reports to the County Health Committee on prevention of tuberculosis.

A summary of these reports shows that a total of 1,786 contacts were examined at the Chest Clinic during the year ended December 31st, 1954, 390 of these contacts being new.

The arrangements for the prevention of tuberculosis and after-care of patients continues to work satisfactorily. Dr. Royce states that it is now possible for patients to be X-rayed in the evening, as well as being seen clinically, this being made possible by the Chest Clinic having been moved to new quarters at West End House, Thorpe Road, Peterborough.

The ratio of new contacts to new notifications is extremely high. In one case 48 were all members of one family and contacts to the same case of pulmonary tuberculosis. Dr. Royce remarks that the vast majority of the contacts are willing, and a lot of them even eager, to remain under periodic supervision.

I should like to pay a tribute to the care, determination and persistence, together with tactful handling, which the Tuberculosis Health Visitor (Miss Wagstaff) displays in securing the attendance and examination of contacts at the Chest Clinic. To many families she is more than a "Tuberculosis Nurse"; she is a real friend, who helps in countless unofficial ways.

Mass Radiography Unit

The Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board visited Peterborough during 1954—at Messrs. F. Perkins Works from April 27th to May 12th, and at Bishop's Road Youth Hostel premises from May 17th to June 6th.

I append a summary of the findings:—

<i>Messrs. F. Perkins Works</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of employees believed to be available	...	...	...	...	...	4,117	670	4,787
No. actually X-rayed	...	...	...	...	...	3,297	504	3,801
Percentage examined	...	...	...	...	...			79.4%
No. recalled for full size films	...	...	...	...	...	169	24	193
Old calcified primary or minor lesions requiring no further action	...	...	...	...	...	62	8	70
Previously diagnosed tuberculosis already under or previously recommended for supervision...	...	...	...	...	...	10	1	11
Newly discovered significant lesions								
(a) requiring active treatment	...	...	...	...	...	7	—	7
(b) referred to Chest Physician for further observation	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2

Bishop's Road Premises

Total cases X-rayed	...	...	...	...	...	3,620	2,647	6,267
New cases of tuberculosis requiring treatment discovered	...	...	...	...	...			9

(No further details at present available)

B.C.G. Vaccination

B.C.G. vaccinations are carried out at the Chest Clinic and the scheme now appears to be running smoothly. It is pleasing and encouraging to note the number of parents who are enthusiastic for this precautionary measure to be undertaken on behalf of their children.

During the year 1954 a total of 86 B.C.G. vaccinations were carried out, compared with 94 in 1953.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations

It was not necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from respiratory tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

Venereal Diseases

There is one Venereal Disease Clinic in the area of the Soke of Peterborough which is situated at the Out-Patient Department of the Peterborough Memorial Hospital.

The East Anglian Regional Hospital Board is responsible for the clinical work and administration. The Consultant Venereologist in charge of the Centre is Dr. N. A. Ross, and the clinics are held as follows:—

Males Mondays 5.30 — 7 p.m.
 Wednesdays 5.30 — 7 p.m.

Females Tuesdays 10.30 — 12 noon
 Thursdays 5.30 — 7 p.m.

177 patients attended the Clinic for the first time during the year 1954, compared with 214 in 1953; 156 in 1952; 174 in 1951; and 235 in 1950.

These were classified as follows:—

							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	12	23
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	9	32
Chancroid	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
Non-gonococcal urethritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	41	—	41
Other conditions requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	23	14	37
Conditions not requiring treatment	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	18	36
Conditions undiagnosed at 31/12/54	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	5
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	...	123	54	177

On January 1st, 1954, 190 patients were already under treatment, viz., 108 cases of syphilis (43 males and 65 females); 32 cases of gonorrhoea (25 males and 7 females); and 50 cases of other conditions (38 males and 12 females).

Six patients who had defaulted in previous years returned to the Clinic for treatment or observation. These were all males suffering from “other conditions.” Therefore a total of 373 patients were treated at the Peterborough Clinic during 1954, compared with 526 in 1953; 319 in 1952; 390 in 1951; 398 in 1950, and 437 in 1949.

There has been a decrease in the cases of gonorrhoea (32 new cases against 47 last year). The number of new cases of syphilis remains about the same (23 against 24 last year).

During the year 181 patients were discharged after completion of treatment and final test of cure, or after the diagnosis as non-venereal disease had been confirmed.

16 patients defaulted during the year under review, and one died.

7 patients were transferred to other centres or to private practitioners.

On December 31st, 1954, 166 patients were remaining under treatment or observations, viz., 112 cases of syphilis, 11 of gonorrhoea, and 43 of other conditions.

The 373 patients who attended the Clinic during the year made 2,885 attendances, as compared with 2,673 in 1953; 2,138 in 1952; 2,413 in 1951, and 2,245 in 1950.

The places of residence of the 177 new patients who attended the Clinic in 1954 were:—

							1954	1953
Soke of Peterborough	...	...	...	...	...	...	96	101
Huntingdonshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	28	50
Northamptonshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	21
Isle of Ely	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	18
Kesteven	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	13
Other Areas	...	...	...	...	...	...	18	18
Totals	...	...	...	...	...	...	177	221

The following information is given with regard to contact tracing:—
Contacts attending for examination through the agency of:

- (a) Patients (1 syphilis, 5 gonorrhoea, 7 others) 13
- (b) Health Visitor or Social Service Worker (1 syphilis, 2 gonorrhoea, 10 others) 13

SECTION IV

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

I have to thank Mr. J. J. Cole, the County Inspector of Food and Drugs, for the following report on the work carried out in the year 1954:—

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF FOOD
AND DRUGS FOR THE YEAR 1954**

During the year 1954, eighty-five samples of foodstuffs and drugs were taken for chemical analysis and eleven for bacteriological examination. All with the exception of two samples of milk and one of sausages complied with the Food and Drugs Act and the Ministry of Food Orders and Regulations.

The articles sampled and analysed consisted of the following, and, except where otherwise stated, only one sample was taken:—

Anadin Tablets; Aspirin; Black Currant Juice; Cheese; Cheese Spread; (4); Christmas Pudding; Condensed Milk; Confectionery—Sweets (5); Cream (2); Fish Paste; Flavour Essences (2); Ice Cream (4); Jam; “Kitty-Cola”; “Koray Tablets”; Malt Vinegar (2); Margarine; Meat Paste; Milk (22); Mincemeat; Oranges (8); Pork Pie; Salad Cream; Sausages (16); Shredded Beef Suet; Tomato Ketchup (2); Whisky (2).

Milk. The average milk fat content of sixteen samples was 3.80 per cent, and milk solids other than milk fat averaged 8.84 per cent. The minimum standards are: Milk Fat 3.0 per cent, Milk Solids other than milk fat 8.5 per cent. Six additional samples were from Jersey cows and they had an average of 4.80 per cent fat and 9.20 per cent milk solids.

Two of the milks, though up to standard in fat, contained only 8.1 per cent and 8.25 per cent milk solids respectively. The analyst certified that there was no addition of water to the milk, and that the deficiencies were due to natural causes. The seller of the milk was very much alive to the desirability of having richer milk, and had consulted the Milk Marketing Board, the County Milk Officer, his veterinary surgeon, and the suppliers of his animal feedingstuffs.

Eleven milks were bacteriologically examined and two did not conform to their appropriate standards. Further samples were taken and found to be satisfactory.

Ice Cream. Four samples were taken and their average percentages of the main ingredients are shown below:—

Oils and Fats	12.26 (standard 5)
Sucrose	12.0 (standard 10)
Milk Solids	8.48 (standard 7.5)

Pork Pie. In previous reports I referred to the very low percentages of meat in these and other similar pies. The particular sample taken contained:—

Meat	24.6 per cent
Crust	75.4 per cent

Oranges. Of eight samples taken, thiourea was found in five to the following extent:—

Parts per million in the whole orange

1.2, 1.2, 1.2, 2.5, 5.0

The analyst stated that these quantities of thiourea were quite innocuous and unlikely to be the cause of illness. The oranges were imported from Spain.

The other three samples were satisfactory.

Sausages. The average meat content of six samples of Beef Sausages analysed was 53.2 per cent (Standard 50.0 per cent). Ten samples of Pork Sausages were analysed and the meat content averaged 69.3 per cent (Standard 65 per cent). The standard referred to was contained in the old Ministry of Food Order. One sample of pork sausage contained only 61 per cent of meat and the attention of the trader was drawn to this.

J. J. COLE,
County Inspector of Food and Drugs.



